

INFORMATION NOTICE

WORKFORCE SERVICES

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: SERVING MILITARY SPOUSES AS DISLOCATED WORKERS UNDER
WIA FORMULA GRANT

The Department of Labor has provided guidance to clarify their policy regarding flexibility under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for provision of services to military spouses as dislocated workers under the WIA Dislocated Worker formula grants. The guidance is found in Training and Guidance Letter (TEGL) 22-04 Change 1 (September 28, 2007).

Because military spouses often experience frequent and significant education and career interruptions due to service members' assignments and deployments, the Workforce Investment System is positioned via WIA Dislocated Worker formula funding to provide military spouses with education, retraining and reemployment strategies.

The policy as amplified in TEGL [22-04 Change 1](#) addresses the military spouse who leaves a job to follow his/her spouse to a new duty station, or the spouse's cessation of employment due to the service member's discharge from active service. Fundamental to the policy is that the spouse can be considered to meet the "unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation" criterion of the WIA definition of a dislocated worker.

The TEGL also references the broad variety of eligibility factors a spouse may face including retraining due to obsolete or inadequate skills, possible decline of an industry in which the spouse had prior work experience or excess workers with similar skill sets seeking limited employment opportunities in the region.

The state will be reviewing its Dislocated Worker eligibility policy to include this clarification. Additionally, the WIA Job Training Assistance (JTA) system will be modified to include this category of dislocated workers.

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